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Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace the claims in the application.

1. (original) An anamorphic converter comprising at least an anamorphic lens disposed on an image side of an imaging optical system,

wherein when a focal length conversion magnification in an arbitrary cross

10 section X containing an optical axis of the anamorphic converter is assigned β_x , a focal length conversion magnification in a cross section Y containing an optical axis and being perpendicular to the cross section X is assigned β_y , an aspect ratio of an image pickup range in an image surface of the imaging optical system is assigned AR1, and an aspect ratio of an effective area of image pickup means is assigned AR2, the following relationship is established:

15
$$0.9 < (AR1 \times \beta_x) / (AR2 \times \beta_y) < 1.1$$

2. (original) An anamorphic converter according to claim 1, wherein the anamorphic lens is provided within an afocal group.

3. (original) An anamorphic converter according to claim 1, wherein both β_x and β_y are positive values, and the anamorphic converter has positive refracting powers in the cross
20 section X and in the cross section Y.

4. (original) An anamorphic converter according to claim 3, further comprising, from the imaging optical system side in a stated order, a first group of lenses having a negative refracting power, a second group of lenses including at least two or more anamorphic lenses, and a third group of lenses having a positive refracting power.

25 5. (original) An anamorphic converter according to claim 3, wherein the following relationship is established:

$$1 \leq (AR2^2 + 1) \times \beta_y^2 / (AR1^2 + 1) < 2.6$$

5 6. (original) An anamorphic converter according to claim 1, wherein both β_x and β_y are negative values, and the anamorphic converter further comprises at least one negative lens and two or more anamorphic lenses.

7. (original) An anamorphic converter comprising at least an anamorphic lens disposed on an image side of an imaging optical system,
10 wherein when a focal length conversion magnification in an arbitrary cross section X containing an optical axis of the anamorphic converter is assigned β_x , and a focal length conversion magnification in a cross section Y containing an optical axis and being perpendicular to the cross section X is assigned β_y , both β_x and β_y are negative values.

8. (currently amended) A lens device, comprising:
15 the anamorphic converter as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7;~~ claim 1 and the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

9. (currently amended) An image pickup device, comprising:
 the anamorphic converter as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7;~~ claim 1
20 an imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter; and
 image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

10. (original) An anamorphic converter comprising at least an anamorphic lens
25 disposed on an image side of an imaging optical system,
 wherein when a focal length conversion magnification in an arbitrary cross section X containing an optical axis of the anamorphic converter is assigned β_x , a focal length

5 conversion magnification in a cross section Y containing an optical axis and being perpendicular to the cross section X is assigned β_y , an aspect ratio of an image pickup range in an image surface of the imaging optical system is assigned AR1, and an aspect ratio of an effective area of image pickup means is assigned AR2, the following relationships are established:

$$0.9 < (AR1 \times \beta_x) / (AR2 \times \beta_y) < 1.1$$

10 $(AR2^2 + 1) \times \beta_y^2 / (AR1^2 + 1) < 1$

11. (original) An anamorphic converter according to claim 10, wherein the anamorphic lens is provided within an afocal group.

12. (original) An amorphic converter according to claim 10, wherein both β_x and β_y are positive values, and the anamorphic converter has positive refracting powers in the cross section X and in the cross section Y.

13. (original) An anamorphic converter according to claim 12, further comprising, from the imaging optical system side in a stated order, a first group of lenses having a negative refracting power, a second group of lenses including at least two or more anamorphic lenses, and a third group of lenses having a positive refracting power.

20 14. (original) An anamorphic converter according to claim 10, wherein both β_x and β_y are negative values, and the anamorphic converter further comprises at least one negative lens and two or more anamorphic lenses.

15. (currently amended) A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in ~~any one of claims 10 to 14~~; claim 10 and

25 the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the anamorphic converter.

16. (currently amended) An image pickup device, comprising:

5 the anamorphic converter as claimed in ~~any one of claims 10 to 14;~~ claim 10
the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the
anamorphic converter; and
image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic
converter.

10 17. (new) A lens device, comprising:
the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 2 and
the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the
anamorphic converter.

15 18. (new) A lens device, comprising:
the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 3 and
the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the
anamorphic converter.

20 19 (new) A lens device, comprising:
the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 4 and
the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the
anamorphic converter.

25 20. (new) A lens device, comprising:
the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 5 and
the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the
anamorphic converter.

21. (new) A lens device, comprising:
the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 6 and

5 the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the
anamorphic converter.

22. (new) A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 7 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the

10 anamorphic converter.

23. (new) An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 2

an imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the

anamorphic converter; and

15 image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic
converter.

24. (new) An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 3

an imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the

20 anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic

converter.

25. (new) An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 4

25 an imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the

anamorphic converter; and

5 image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic
converter.

26. (new) An image pickup device, comprising:
the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 5
an imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the

10 anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic
converter.

27. (new) An image pickup device, comprising:
the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 6

15 an imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the
anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic
converter.

28. (new) An image pickup device, comprising:

20 the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 7
an imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the
anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic
converter.

25 29. (new) A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 11 and

5 the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the
anamorphic converter.

30. (new) A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 12 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the

10 anamorphic converter.

31. (new) A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 13 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the
anamorphic converter.

15 32. (new) A lens device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 14 and

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the
anamorphic converter.

33. (new) An image pickup device, comprising:

20 the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 11

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the
anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic
converter.

25 34. (new) An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 12

5 the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the
anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic
converter.

35. (new) An image pickup device, comprising:

10 the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 13

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the
anamorphic converter; and

image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic
converter.

15 36. (new) An image pickup device, comprising:

the anamorphic converter as claimed in claim 14

the imaging optical system disposed on an object side with respect to the
anamorphic converter; and

20 image pickup means disposed on the object side with respect to the anamorphic
converter.